

C/S

TONBRIDGE AND SOUTHBOROUGH JOINT HEALTH AREA.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

Public Health Office,  
"Little Heys,"  
Tudoley Road;  
Tonbridge.



TONBRIDGE AND SOUTHBOROUGH JOINT HEALTH AREA.

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Public Health Office,

"Little Heys,"

Tudeley Road,

Tonbridge.

31st July, 1941.

To the Chairman & Councillors of  
Tonbridge Rural District Council and  
Tonbridge & Southborough Urban District Councils.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Area for the year 1940.

The Report is compiled on the lines indicated and abbreviated as instructed by the Ministry of Health.

As I was in office for only three months of the year under review no attempt has been made to comment on all the Public Health work.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for the kindly manner in which I was received when I took up my new duties. To the officials of the various departments and to my staff I am especially grateful.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. SWANN,

Medical Officer of Health.

TONBRIDGE AND SOUTHBOROUGH JOINT HEALTH AREA.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Tonbridge Rural District.

Mr. E.A.P. May, Senior Sanitary Inspector: (Cert. as S.I. and M.I.  
Grad. Instn. of Mech. Engrs. Cert. in Building  
Construction).

Mr. J. Hughes, Assistant Sanitary Inspector (Cert. as S.I. and  
M.I.) (Joined R.A.F. 29/7/40)

Tonbridge Urban District.

Mr. M. Jenner, Senior Sanitary Inspector (Cert. as S.I. and M.I.)

Mr. T. Ellison, Assistant Sanitary Inspector (Cert. as S.I. and  
Cert. in Hygiene and Physiology)

Southborough Urban District.

Mr. T.A. Scott, Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector (Cert. as S.I.)

Health Nurse:

Miss E. K. Mackley, S.R.N., S.R.F.N., S.C.M. (till 30th  
June, 1940)

Mrs. F. Graham, S.R.N., S.C.M., (temporary)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:

Mrs. S.C. Downs.

Medical Officer of Health:

S.N. Galbraith, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (retired 30th Sept., 1940)

W.G. Swann, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.  
(from 1st October, 1940)

Matron of Tonbridge Joint Isolation Hospital:

Mrs. F. Graham, S.R.N., S.C.M., (retired 30th June, 1940)

Miss E. K. Mackley, S.R.N., S.R.F.N., S.C.M. (from 1st July, 1940)

TONBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.1940 HEALTH REPORT.General Statistics.

Area (acres)	...	...	41,687
Resident Population (1931 Census)	...	...	18,063
Resident Population (Registrar-General's Estimate (mid-year 1940))	...	...	25,240
Rateable Value	...	...	£138,229
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	£542
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books, end of 1940)	...	...	6,049

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live ) Legitimate	257	134	123
Births ) Illegitimate	18	10	8
	<u>275</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>131</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 1940. 10.9

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Still ) Legitimate	15	6	9
Births ) Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>15</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 51.7

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths	288	159	129

Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 1940. 11.4

Deaths from puerperal causes ... .. NIL

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	64.52
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	61.30
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	111.1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	41
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	nil
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	2



TONBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT.1940 HEALTH REPORT.General Statistics.

Area (acres)	...	...	4,599
Resident Population (1931 Census)	...	...	16,832
Resident Population (Registrar-General's Estimate (mid-year 1940)	...	...	18,690
Rateable Value	...	...	£153,403
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£595
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books, end of 1940)	...	...	4,928

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live ) Legitimate	202	108	94
Births ) Illegitimate	16	9	7
	218	117	101
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 1940			11.7

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Still ) Legitimate	13	6	7
Births ) Illegitimate	1	-	1
	14	6	8
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.			60.3

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths	225	102	123
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 1940			12.0
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	... NIL

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	40.72
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	39.02
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	62.5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	39
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	nil
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	nil

SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.1940 HEALTH REPORT.General Statistics.

Area (acres)	...	1,759
Resident Population (1931 Census)	...	7,371
Resident Population (Registrar-General's Estimate (mid-year 1940)	...	8,661 X
Rateable Value	...	£63,229
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£263
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books, end of 1940)	...	2,330 X

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live ) Legitimate	100	45	55
Births ) Illegitimate	5	4	1
	<u>105</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>56</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 1940 12.1

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Still ) Legitimate	2	1	1
Births ) Illegitimate	-	-	-

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 18.7

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths	153	70	83

Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 1940. 17.7

Deaths from puerperal causes ... NIL

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	57.14
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	60.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	00.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	21
" " Measles (all ages)	...	nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	nil
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	nil



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

A list of the staff of the Public Health Department with the various alterations is given at the beginning of this Report.

There have been no permanent changes during the year in the Laboratory and Ambulance Facilities or in the arrangements for Nursing in the Home and Treatment Centres and Clinics. London County Council Nurses were loaned to help in the Tonbridge Rural District in treating school children with scabies and verminous conditions, the First Aid Points being used as temporary clinics.

The Hermitage, Hadlow - This has been taken over as an Auxiliary Hospital by the Tonbridge Rural District Council at the instance of the Ministry of Health. Cases of minor infectious diseases and contagious skin infections in evacuated children receive residential treatment. Cases are admitted from the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Southborough and Tonbridge Urban Districts, Tonbridge, Dartford, Sevenoaks and Maidstone Rural Districts.

The following Houses have been taken by the Tonbridge Rural District Council at the instance of the Ministry of Health for evacuation purposes -

Mill House, Hildenborough. - This was taken for the accommodation of a day nursery from Bethnal Green. Admissions are made only with the authority of the Ministry of Health. So far as the Tonbridge Rural Council is concerned, Mill House is under the direction of the Tonbridge Rural Council Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. (Matron: Miss Taylor).

Holly Dene, Riding Lane, Hildenborough. - This is used for the accommodation of minor illnesses and for any cases requiring extra care. (Sister Edith, Order of Our Lady of Grace is in Charge).

Chez Nous, Furze Field Avenue, Speldhurst. - For similar purposes as Holly Dene. (Mrs. Cox is in charge).

Talbot Dene, Philpot Lane, Hildenborough. - For the accommodation of difficult children, and is in the care of Mrs. Wiseman, evacuated to this area as an L.C.C. helper.

Admission to the last three houses are made on the authority of the Tonbridge Rural Council and supervision is exercised by the Health and Housing Committee of the Council.

### Hospitals.

Tonbridge Joint Isolation Hospital, Capel - Accommodation is provided for patients from the Tonbridge Urban and Rural Districts, suffering from infectious diseases.

Southborough Urban District Council has an agreement with the Tunbridge Wells Corporation whereby any infectious cases are admitted to the Borough Sanatorium.



Health Nurse employed by the Tonbridge Joint Hospital Committee.

Summary of visits paid during 1940.			Tonbridge.	
			Urban.	Rural.
To scarlet fever contacts	...	...	176	123
No. of throat treatments	...	...	172	165
Scarlet fever hospital discharges	...	...	60	42
Diphtheria contacts	...	...	67	98
No. of throat treatments	...	...	91	119
Diphtheria hospital discharges	...	...	56	27
Contacts to cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	29	20
No. of throat treatments	...	...	34	372
To cases of - Measles	...	...	7	7
Chickenpox	...	...	14	30
Mumps	...	...	4	8
Whooping Cough	...	...	-	29
Rubella	...	...	112	147
Impetigo	...	...	-	4
Scabies	...	...	1	3
Tonsillitis	...	...	3	-
Visits to Schools:-			39	34
No. of children examined			1,837	1,259
" " throat treatments			1,404	1,089
" excluded for peeling, etc.			5	5
Other visits	...	...	11	32
No. of swabs taken for diphtheria			78	90
No. positive			1	11
No. of swabs " " haemolytic streptococci			19	11
No. positive			6	1

Southborough Urban District.

Visits made	...	...	6	
Children examined	...	...	13	
Treatment given	...	...	8	

The Health Nurse makes inspections at Schools from which cases of notified major infectious diseases occur to inspect contacts and take swabs if indicated. Antiseptic treatment and supervision is undertaken in contacts where any obvious clinical lesion exists.

Tonbridge Rural District - Maternity & Child Welfare Services.

Health Visiting - The following abridged report supplied by Miss H. Wakefield, Superintendent for the West Kent Area of the County Nursing Association, gives particulars of the visits made by the District Nurses of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing who are located at twelve points in the Tonbridge Rural Area, and attend to the constituent parishes.

	NO. OF VISITS.				
Nursing District.	To Expectant Mothers.		To infants under 12 months.		To children 1 - 5 years
	First.	Sub-sequent.	First.	Sub-sequent.	
Ashurst & Groombridge	2	8	3	30	46
Brenchley & Matfield	10	154	31	62	236
Capel, Tudeley & Five Oak Green.	15	73	21	142	345
Hadlow	-	-	33	195	436
Hildenborough	18	161	31	206	143
Horsmonden	23	85	37	191	168
Lamberhurst	26	144	15	180	256
Langton	11	50	10	68	124
Paddock Wood	26	213	30	275	426
Pembury	24	83	27	264	306
Speldhurst	6	52	14	121	201
Bidborough	-	-	4	35	71
	161	1023	256	1769	2758

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

The following figures give the attendances made at the 11 Child Welfare Centres in Tonbridge Rural District which are provided by Voluntary Associations and aided by the District Council. The Centres are held fortnightly and attended by the District Nurses for the respective parishes, and the Welfare Medical Officer attends once a month.

CENTRES.	Attendances by children		No. of Sessions in Year.	Total attendances by Mothers.
	Under 1 year.	1 - 5 years.		
Bidborough	68	211	24	276
Brenchley	208	295	29	482
Capel	147	229	22	303
Hadlow	95	103	20	153
Hildenborough	281	111	29	383
Horsmonden	125	208	23	227
Lamberhurst	122	296	22	363
Langton	68	215	24	205
Paddock Wood	162	160	22	310
Pembury	169	391	23	422
Speldhurst	129	250	24	306
Totals (11 centres)	1574	2469	262	3430



The Kent County Council have established an Emergency Maternity Home for the confinement of expectant evacuee mothers at "Northfield," Langton, and have taken Bidborough Hall, Bidborough to accommodate normally healthy children under 5 years from evacuation Areas.

#### ANTE-NATAL SCHEME.

In connexion with the above Scheme, 52 expectant mothers were ante-natally examined by private medical practitioners during the year, and 6 cases were post-natally examined.

#### GRANTS OF MILK.

Free grants of milk were recommended in necessitous cases to expectant and nursing mothers and young children;

#### Liquid gallons. Dried pounds.

(i) By the Council	1,167½	-
(ii) By Voluntary Associations	-	837

#### Dental Scheme.

Twenty-one mothers and 4 children have received treatment under the Council's Dental Treatment Scheme during the year, and 1 child was treated at the Sevenoaks Orthopaedic Clinic.

#### CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

Number of persons receiving children for reward at the end of the year.	...	40
Number of children:		
(i) at the end of the year	...	65
(ii) who died during the year	...	1
(iii) on whom inquests were held	...	-
Number of child protection visitors at the end of the year who were:-		
(i) Health Visitors.	...	2
(ii) Female, other than Health Visitors	...	8
(iii) Male	...	-
No Proceedings were taken during the year.		

#### NURSING HOMES.

One Nursing Home (Miss Gear's) in the Tonbridge Urban District was transferred from 66, Quarry Hill to 25, Goldsmid Road, Tonbridge, a new registration being affected. No other change in registered Nursing Homes has occurred during 1940.

TONBRIDGE & SOUTHBOROUGH JOINT AREA.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Water Supply.

No important extensions of mains have been carried out during the year in any of the Districts of my Area and the supplies have been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Drainage & Sewerage.

No extensions have been made during the year in this Area. The Tonbridge Urban District Council is acquiring a new 750 gallon cesspool and gully emptying vehicle, which will release the old machine for Civil Defence work.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal have been maintained throughout the Area and work in the salvage of waste materials has been intensified.

Rivers & Streams.

Owing to the outbreak of war, the County Council have been compelled to suspend its general investigation into the whole problems of rivers pollution. Complaints of individual instances of pollution, and their causes, have continued to be investigated and dealt with.



RURAL DISTRICT OF TONBRIDGE.

STATISTICAL DATA. (extracted from the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for 1940).

	No. in District	No. of Visits in 1940	No. of faults and defects found.	No. of faults and defects remedied.
Bakehouses	19	4	nil	nil
Dairies	199	173		
Slaughter houses. (Registered houses. (Licenced.	The Council have given effect to Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. 17 former registrations have been cancelled; 11 slaughter houses continue to be licenced and 7 applications for licences rejected. Reconstruction to a varying degree is required at each of the remaining eleven premises.			
Other food-preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection.	125	30	-	-
Factories	8	12 )	nil	nil
Workshops	49	5 )	do.	do.

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year (other than those enumerated in the above tabulation).

Hop-pickers' camp.	See report.	Refuse Receptacles	...	2
Sanitary Accommodation:		Tents, vans and sheds	...	6
(i) Insufficient	34	Chimneys re-built	...	10
(ii) Defective	12	Yard Paving	...	14
Drainage:		Dampness	...	74
(i) Re-constructed	22	Roofs and rain water pipes	...	39
(ii) Repaired	-	Floors	...	51
(iii) Cleansed	-	Walls and Ceilings	...	12
Cesspools:		Windows & Ventilation	...	27
(i) Abolished	5	Water Supplies	...	8
(ii) Repaired	3			
Offensive accumulations.	1			
Miscellaneous	41			
Baths, Lavatory Basins & Sinks	21			

Total number of visits of all kinds paid  
during the year ... 1,298

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The slaughtering of animals for food during 1940 has been under the control of the Ministry of Food in regional slaughter houses of which none are situated in this Rural District. Consequently there has been no inspection of animals except in one or two instances where a licence has been issued to private persons to slaughter animals for their own consumption.

Thirteen animals were inspected during the first month of the year and 317 lbs. of meat condemned (from three carcasses affected with Tuberculosis).

Other foodstuffs condemned include 31 lbs. butter, 100 cans of tinned fish damaged in the district by enemy action, approximately 10 tons of condemned wheat salvaged for animal feeding following air raids on London, and 36 lbs. of bacon in a local shop.

### H O U S I N G .

Present conditions have resulted in housing work generally being brought to a standstill but there is still a demand that houses shall be repaired. The occupiers of a small number of premises from which complaints have emanated during the last few months state that their relatives serving in the Forces would feel happier if they knew their families were decently housed. The Council agree with this view and in one instance authorised action under Section 9 of the Housing Act. In view of imminent statutory action the owner ultimately gave the order for the necessary work to be put in hand. At present it is impossible to deal with housing comprehensively because of limits set by statutory order.

The total number of houses inspected, mainly because of complaints, was 110 including 35 under the Public Health Acts.

URBAN DISTRICT OF TONBRIDGE.Extracts from the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for 1940.

	No. in Dis- trict.	No. of visits in 1940.	No. of faults and defects found.	No. of faults and defects remedied.
Bakehouses	16	46	6	6
Dairies	15	129	8	8
Slaughterhouses	6	52	1	1
Other food-preparing places subject to registration. Premises registered for the manufacture, sale or storage of ice-cream	34 ) ) ) 23 )	136	7	7
Factories ) and ) Workshops )	114	82	11	11
Workplaces and Shops (Shops Act 1934, Sec.10. Public Health Act, 1936, Sec.46.		56	4	4
Offensive Trades.	2	6	1	1

Nuisances and Defects remedied during the year (other than those enumerated in the above tabulation).

Keeping of animals	...	3	Refuse Receptacles	...	3
Smoke Nuisances	...	2	Yard Paving, etc.	...	8
Sanitary Accommodation:	...		Dampness	...	24
(i) insufficient	...	3	Roofs, gutters, etc.	...	24
(ii) defective	...	89	Floors	...	16
Drainage:	...		Walls and ceilings	...	63
(i) Reconstructed	...	1	Coppers	...	12
(ii) Repaired	...	13	Sinks and Baths	...	9
(iii) Cleansed	...	37	Offensive accumulations	...	11
Windows & Ventilation	...	33	Miscellaneous	...	101
Stoves	...	17			
Water Supplies	...	16			
Total number of visits of all kinds paid during the year				...	2,001



No. of premises disinfected	...	...	91
Batches of clothing removed for disinfection	...	...	
by steam	...	...	57

#### INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Amount of food condemned during  
the year ... 6 cwts. 2 qrs. 19 lbs.

The Minister of Food has not taken possession of any of the slaughterhouses in Tonbridge for use by the Government, and they are at present dis-used except for emergency slaughtering.

Under the Government scheme of meat control, uniform inspection, both at the slaughterhouses and at the wholesale meat distribution depots, is provided for, and this has naturally resulted in a reduction in the amount of diseased and unfit meat required to be dealt with in Tonbridge during the year.

#### HOUSING.

Housing Act, 1936 - No Clearance Orders are being proceeded with at present. The Council continues to receive and consider reports and recommendations with a view to finding accommodation in Council houses for persons living in insanitary or overcrowded conditions. Owing to the building of new houses being practically suspended, and to the reception of evacuees into the District, the statutory standards laid down in the Housing Acts for the prevention of overcrowding are not at present being rigidly enforced.

#### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) Number of (a) Council houses	-	22
(b) Other houses	-	15
found to be infested.		

(2) The number of (a) Council houses	-	22
(b) Other houses	-	15
disinfested.		



URBAN DISTRICT OF SOUTHBOROUGH.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1940.

	No. in Dis- trict.	No. of visits in 1940.	No. of faults and defects found.	No. of faults and defects remedied.
Bakehouses	5	17	nil	nil
Dairies	17	71	2	2
Slaughter ( Registered houses ( ( Licenced	) ) 1 M.O.H.)	84	nil	nil
Factories	8	48	nil	nil
Workshops	75			
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes).	2			

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year (other  
than those enumerated in the above tabulation)

Sanitary Accommodation:		Dampness	2
Defective	5	Roofs & rainwater pipes.	8
Drainage:		Walls and Ceilings	2
Repaired	3	Windows and Ventilation.	12
Cleansed	5	Baths, Lavatory basins & sinks	31
Miscellaneous	5	Water Supplies	3
Refuse Receptacles	15		

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspector(s) during the year ... 318

No. of houses disinfected: 25	Batches of clothing: 18
No. of Notices served - Statutory, Nil:	Informal: 30
No. of W.C's. into Drainage system, 2395:	W.C's into Cesspools: 64

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Samples Taken: 27.  
Satisfied: 25 Unsatisfactory: 2

Amount of food condemned during the year:

15 cwt.      1 qr.      9 lbs.

## HOUSING .

Any comments upon the general question of housing: and in particular, upon war conditions and their effects on housing.

nil.

## Eradication of Bedbugs.

- (1) 5 houses infested were fumigated.
- (2) Fumigation with "Cescones."
- (3) None
- (4) Local Authority
- (5) Advice given as far as practicable.

TONBRIDGE AND SOUTHBOROUGH JOINT HEALTH AREA.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	Total Cases Notified.			Cases admitted to Hospital.			Total Deaths.		
	Tonbridge Rural.	Tonbridge Urban.	Southboro' Urban.	Tonbridge Rural.	Tonbridge Urban.	Southboro' Urban.	Tonbridge Rural.	Tonbridge Urban.	Southboro' Urban.
Scarlet Fever	53	44	15	52	39	9	-	-	-
Diphtheria	35	16	1	35	16	1	1	-	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid fever)	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cerebrospinal fever	12	7	-	12	7	-	1	1	-
Ac. Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	37	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	10	19	1	-	2	-	2	2	-
Erysipelas	6	4	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	8	37	24	1	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	176	132	44	138	66	11	4	3	-

Scarlet Fever. There was a prevalence of this disease during the year, a total of 112 cases in the 3 Districts compared with 30 cases in 1939. The age periods of incidence in the Area were as follows:-

<u>0-1</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>3-5</u>	<u>5-10</u>	<u>10-15</u>	<u>15-20</u>	<u>20-35</u>	<u>35-45</u>	<u>45-65 &amp; over</u>	
1	7	18	39	32	2	9	3	1	112

Home and School Contacts were visited and examined and any suspicious cases of peeling, sore throat or nasal discharge excluded.

Diphtheria. - Fifty-two cases were notified with 1 death in the three Districts as compared with 19 cases in 1939, and 1 death.



The age periods were as under:-

<u>0-1</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>3-5</u>	<u>5-10</u>	<u>10-15</u>	<u>15-20</u>	<u>20-35</u>	<u>35-45</u>	<u>45-65 &amp; over.</u>
1	2	6	19	11	1	9	2	1 = 52

The Home Contacts were visited by the Health Nurse and swabs taken, and the Schools affected were also visited and the immediate contacts swabbed.

Under the Tonbridge Rural District Council Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation carried out by local Medical Practitioners, 33 pre-school children and 289 school children were immunised. T.A.F. was used, 3 doses of 1cc. each at fortnightly intervals being given. The local Doctors were paid 5/-d per case.

Enteric Fever - Two cases occurred in the paratyphoid group, both in the Tonbridge Urban District.

The first case occurred in an adult male who was isolated and treated at home by his own medical attendant. I visited the house and made enquiries but could not trace any probable source of infection. The monthly routine sample of the public water supply proved satisfactory and enquiries from the milk supplier elicited the information that no workers engaged in the process of milking or delivery had recently been ill with any intestinal upset. Nor was a history of any enteric disease obtainable from them.

The second case which occurred a fortnight later but which had no apparent connexion with the first case, other than the same milk supply, was of a schoolboy aged 12 years who was removed to Capel Isolation Hospital. I visited the house and made enquiries but no evidence as to the source of infection could be traced.

A sample of the public water supply was examined and reported on by the County Pathologist, as follows:-  
"B. coli absent in 100 ccs. Good water. No pathogenic organisms cultivated."

As the milk supplier in this case was the same as in the first, samples both of the milk supplier and of the producers were examined at the County Laboratory for paratyphoid B. the findings were:- "No pathogenic organisms cultivated."

Seventeen specimens of faeces were examined at the County Laboratory for Bacillus Paratyphoid B. of men engaged in milking and roundsmen from 3 farms supplying the milk. The result of the examinations showed "No pathogenic organisms cultivated."

Cerebro-Spinal Fever - Tonbridge Rural District had 12 cases, with 1 death and Tonbridge Urban District had 7 cases with 1 death. Of the former, 6 cases were reported by the Military Authorities having occurred in soldiers, all of whom recovered after treatment in Isolation Hospitals. The Medical Officer in charge of the camp



undertook all necessary precautions. The 6 civilian cases occurred in adults, one proved fatal. The Urban cases occurred in 6 adults and one in a child aged 7 years, one of the former died.

Acute Poliomyelitis - A case occurred in the Tonbridge Urban District in a child aged 3 years who was treated at home and made a good recovery.

Puerperal Pyrexia - All the cases, which occurred 4 in Tonbridge Rural District and 2 in the Urban District of Tonbridge, were treated at home and recovered.

Pneumonia - Tonbridge Rural District had 10 cases, 9 in adults and 1 in an infant; 2 of the former were fatal; Tonbridge Urban District had 19 cases, 13 in adults and 6 in children, 2 adults died. Southborough Urban District had 1 case which occurred in an adult and recovered.

Erysipelas - All the cases occurred in adults with the exception of 1 infant who was treated at the County Hospital, Pembury; one of the former was treated at the Kent & Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Measles and Whooping Cough. - Two cases of measles were treated in Hospital, the others were visited by the Health Nurse in the various Districts.

#### DYSENTERY OUTBREAK AT BIDBOROUGH HALL.

##### Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the Tonbridge Rural District Council.

Accompanied by Mr. May, Sanitary Inspector to the above Council, I visited Bidborough Hall on 6th December, 1940, on receipt of a positive bacteriological report of Sonne dysentery in respect of an infant at Bidborough Hall. We found the sanitary arrangements satisfactory. All necessary precautions were being taken regarding the disinfection and disposal of excreta and soiled bed linen, etc. This case was removed to the County Hospital, Pembury. There was a history of attacks of diarrhoea in most of the children before coming to Bidborough Hall from David Salomons Home. While at Bidborough Hall many of the children again had symptoms of gastro-enteritis as well as slight temperature and influenzal symptoms diagnosed as mild influenza.

Specimens of faeces were sent from all the children and staff and 37 proved to be positive for B. Dysentery (Sonne). When it was evident that the greater proportion of the children and

staff were involved, Dr. Ponder, the County Medical Officer and Dr. Gardiner, Senior Assistant County Medical Officer undertook the supervision of the outbreak, the children being evacuees under the care of the Kent County Council. It was decided to isolate the infected children and staff.

11 children and 4 staff were admitted to Capel Isolation Hospital.

7 children were removed to the County Hospital, Pembury.

12 children and 3 staff were admitted to Warren House, Otford.

One other case although bacteriologically negative was sent to Otford as the child presented symptoms and signs clinically suspicious of dysentery.

The stoving of bedding was carried out at Capel Hospital.

Specimens of the water and milk supplies proved negative - no pathogenic organisms being cultivated.

The sanitary arrangements at David Salomon's Home were reported satisfactory by Mr. Scott, Sanitary Inspector, Southborough Urban District Council.

#### Comment.

Dysentery due to the Sonne Bacillus is usually of a milder type than that due to other strains of dysentery. Fortunately it was so in this outbreak, none of those infected being seriously ill. In this outbreak it is possible that the first child discovered was a 'carrier' as he gave a history of intestinal upsets over a long period, even before being received at David Salomons House. It is thought that many more children suffering from gastro-enteritis and ileocolitis would prove positive for B. dysenteriae Sonne if systematic bacteriological investigation were done in every such case. In this way patients suffering from this disease may be detected at an early stage and precautions taken to limit the spread of infection. However, in this outbreak 10 of the children had specimens of faeces examined while suffering from diarrhoea at David Salomons House but in no case was B. dysenteriae found.

The children and staff are returning to Bidborough Hall as soon as each has three consecutive specimens of faeces from which B. dysenteriae is not cultivated.



TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under the Public Health Act, Section 172.

The numbers of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease are shown in the following table under the respective Districts :-

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES										DEATHS.									
	PULMONARY.					NON-PULMONARY.					PULMONARY.					NON-PULMONARY.				
	Tonbridge		Tonbridge		Tonbridge		Tonbridge		Tonbridge		Tonbridge		Tonbridge		Tonbridge		Tonbridge		Tonbridge	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
15	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
25	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
35	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
45	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
55	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
65 and upwards.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals.	12	7	11	3	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	4	2	2	1	1	1

I N D E X.

	Tonbridge Rural.	Tonbridge Urban.	Southborough Urban.
	P A G E S.		
Ambulance Facilities	6	6	6
Ante-Natal Services	9	-	-
Bed Bugs, Eradication of	-	14	16
Child Life Protection	9	-	-
Clinics	6	6	6
Dental Scheme	9	-	-
Food Inspections	11,12	13,14	16
Health Nurse	7	7	7
Health Visiting	8	8	8
Hospitals	6	6	6
Housing	11,12	13,14	15,16
Infant Welfare Centres	8	-	-
Infectious Diseases	17-21	17-21	17-21
Laboratory Facilities	6	6	6
Maternity & Child Welfare Services	8,9	-	-
Milk Grants	9	-	-
Minor Infectious Diseases	6,7	6,7	6,7
Nursing Homes	9	9	9
Nursing in the Home	6	6	6
Public Health Staff	2,6	2,6	2,6
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.	10	10	10
Sick Bays for Evacuated Children	6	6	6
Statistics	3	4	5
Tuberculosis	21	21	21
Vital & Other Statistics	3	4	5